

Tom Horne
Superintendent

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ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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ARIZONA SCHOOLS CHIEF TOM HORNE ANNOUNCES IMPROVEMENT IN WRITING OF ARIZONA'S GRADE 8 STUDENTS SCORING "BASIC" OR BETTER ON NAEP TEST

PHOENIX -- Arizona Schools Chief Tom Horne today announced improvement in Arizona's Grade 8 students' performance on NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress). Arizona educators have been working very hard to emphasize good writing skills and we are starting to see the results in the latest NAEP Writing Assessment results for Grade 8 students. The 2007 scores for NAEP are being released this morning. The last reported test was 2002. Arizona students showed an increase in the average scale score, as well as in the percentage of students scoring "basic" or above.

Our non-minority students are reported 2nd in the nation for rate of change since 2002 and are scoring at the national average, along with our African American students. Any differences in scale score between Arizona and the national average are insignificant. Our Hispanic students are not yet at the national average but they made greater gains compared to the national average and are 6th in the nation (of 22 participating states) in the rate of improvement.

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